

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated June 24, 2005.

By the present amendment, the title has been amended as required in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Also, claims 3 and 6 have been amended to respond to the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection. Specifically, claim 3 has been amended to define that the plate material is separate from the lead frame. In light of the amendment of the title and the amendments to claims 3 and 6, reconsideration and removal of the objection to the title and the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejections is respectfully requested. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections of claims 1 through 9 over the combination of Marrs (USP 5,701,034), Yasuhara (USP 5,150,193), Yamauchi (JP 1-309359) and Yamada (USP 5,939,774) is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, the independent claims 1 and 3 have each been amended to define that the plate material is used as an anchor for tips of the leads during a wire bonding operation, wherein the lead width of the tips of said leads are smaller than the lead thickness of the tips. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references used in the rejections teaches or suggests this combination of using a plate as an anchor for tips of leads having a lead width smaller than the lead thickness. The advantage of this combined feature is discussed, for example, in paragraph [0075] on page 15 of the Specification which states:

"[0075] With the inner leads 4 fixed to the heat radiation plate 13, the lead

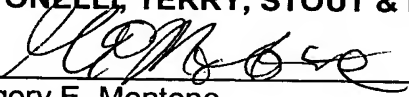
tips are kept anchored during wire bonding. This ensures reliability of wire bonding. The benefit is corroborated by comparison with cross-sectional views of Figs. 9(a) and 9(b) showing inner leads 4 of the lead frame in Fig. 2."

With regard to the cited prior art, although the primary reference to Marrs discloses supporting lead tips on a support plate 110, there is no teaching or suggestion whatsoever in Marrs for using the supporting plate as an anchor during wire bonding for lead tips having a width smaller than their thickness. Similarly, none of the other cited references teaches or suggests utilizing a plate member as an anchor during wire bonding or such lead tips. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of amended independent claims 1 and 3, and their respective dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 501.37400CV4) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By 
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